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Global markets put world's poorest at $500 billion disadvantage, says 1992 Human Development Report

Restricted and unequal access to the world's financial, trade and labour markets costs developing countries $500 billion annually, says the *Human Development Report 1992*, produced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). That is nearly ten times what those countries receive in foreign aid.

The report is the third in an annual series, prepared by a team of economists under the guidance of Dr. Mahbub ul Haq, former Finance Minister of Pakistan and now Special Adviser to the UNDP Administrator.

"One of the great lessons of recent decades is that competitive markets are the best guarantee for human development," says William H. Draper III, UNDP Administrator, in a Foreword to the report. "It is ironic that while national markets are opening, global markets remain restricted. Where can developing nations sell their products unless global markets are also freed of protectionist restraints?"

Already, the gap between rich and poor has doubled during the past three decades, so that the richest fifth of the world's population now receives 150 times the income of the poorest fifth, says the report.

It proposes a global compact between rich and poor nations to promote an equitable and peaceful world. The report suggests a four-point strategy to fund such a compact: reduce military expenditures by three per cent a year, open up global markets for labour-intensive exports of developing countries, reform foreign aid to distribute it more efficiently, and strike a new global debt bargain to halt the current net transfer of $50 billion a year from developing to industrial countries.

Human Development Reports in 1990 and 1991 introduced the Human Development Index (HDI), which ranks countries not by gross national product but by combined rates of life expectancy, education and basic purchasing power. This year, Canada displaces Japan at the top of the HDI for industrial countries, while Romania stays at the bottom. Among developing countries, Barbados remains at the top, while Guinea has replaced Sierra Leone at the bottom.

Tokyo meeting will solidify assistance to Cambodia

The Government of Japan and UNDP will be co-chairing a Ministerial Conference on the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia on 22-23 June in Tokyo. The participants will review the needs of Cambodia, determine the status of donor financing to meet those needs, and identify shortfalls.

The country is in the midst of political, economic and social transition, following a settlement of the Cambodian conflict at the Paris Conference on 23 October 1991. Just six weeks ago, the repatriation began of 370,000 refugees returning to Cambodia from border camps in Thailand.

UNDP and three multilateral financial institutions—the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank—will prepare a document for the Ministerial Conference which will present the economic situation of the country, its development needs and rehabilitation requirements. The document will also examine Cambodia's future reconstruction plans.

Delegates from more than 30 countries and 10 international organizations met in Tokyo on 30-31 March to prepare for the Ministerial Conference. They agreed that the Conference should encourage all countries and international agencies to make concrete commitments towards the rehabilitation of Cambodia. It was recommended that a mechanism for coordinating assistance to the country be established through a consultative group, which would also help the government adopt sound socio-economic policies.

The participants expressed concern about cease-fire violations and urged full cooperation with the UN Transitional Authority for Cambodia (UNTAC) in implementing the terms of the Paris Peace Agreements. They stressed that the backing and commitment from the international community to the rehabilitation of Cambodia will depend on peaceful compliance.

Saudi Prince offers personal support to UNDP's work with the disabled

Saudi Arabia's Prince Abdulaziz Bin Ahmad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud met with UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III in New York to discuss the Prince's role as IMPACT's Special Representative in the Western

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projects approved: **Better land use in Botswana • Road reconstruction for Cambodia • Djibouti boosts private sector • Extended relief for Liberia • Paraguay improves land management • Government reforms for Peru • Tanzania restores primary roads • Turkey strengthens emergency preparedness • Uruguay streamlines judicial system**

Asian region. IMPACT is an international initiative which works against avoidable disablement. It was established in 1981, and is sponsored by UNDP, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Prince became interested in IMPACT after the Leeds Castle Conference in September 1991, which reviewed global progress in preventing disability. The participants proposed an agenda of action to the year 2000.

The Prince offered to organize a similar conference in Riyadh later this year. The aim will be to formulate national programmes which will help combat disability and disability-producing diseases in Islamic countries. The Prince's offer to serve as IMPACT's Special Representative in the Western Asian region could help mobilize support for IMPACT from other sources in the Middle East.

New study presents sustainable plan for Amazonia

The destruction of the Amazon Region and the loss of its environmental contribution to the planet will be inevitable and irreversible without sustainable development that confronts the inequities and poverty in South America, says a new report, "Amazonia Without Myths," released at the United Nations on 21 April.

The report was prepared by the Commission of Development and Environment of Amazonia, a group of prestigious personalities of the Amazon region. It presents a strategy for sustainable development for Amazonia in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in June in Rio de Janeiro.

The document urges the international community to mobilize and channel financial resources to support regional development and the environment, and to transfer environmentally-sound technologies to sustain Amazonia.

In an overview written in collaboration with Colombian Nobel Laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the Commission said it was time to "go beyond enchantment and myths and present an Amazonia of flesh and bone, of human labour, human history, human faces, human hopes and a human future."

The report was prepared as a result of a request by the Treaty on Amazonian Cooperation to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and UNDP in an effort to forge a strategy for Amazonian development. It follows the publication of *Our Own Agenda*, which examines the range of environmental issues affecting Latin America and the Caribbean. The earlier report was produced by the Latin America and Caribbean Commission on Development and the Environment, with the support of IDB and UNDP.

Pregnancy-related deaths commemorated in "Flowers for Mothers" ceremony

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) will sponsor a ceremony to draw global attention to the 500,000 women who die each year from complications during pregnancy and childbirth. The ceremony, Flowers for Mothers, is planned for 8 May on the North lawn of the United Nations. A procession of UN officials and ambassadors, United States legislators and celebrities will place finishing touches on a floral design consisting of a half a million carnations laid out on the lawn. Each flower will represent each women who dies annually from pregnancy-related complications.

"One woman dies every minute," said Dr. Everold Hosein, Director of Program Support for IPPF. "Family planning is the simplest, most cost-effective way to reduce maternal death around the world. But contraceptive services are still unavailable to hundreds of millions of people."

Flowers for Mothers is endorsed by UNDP, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and 35 other organizations which are active in health and development issues.

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Botswana—The Ministry of Agriculture places priority on improving food security and increasing agricultural production, which is limited by low and erratic rainfall and poor soil conditions. UNDP support will help build a national capacity for agricultural land-use planning through human resource development and the strengthening of agricultural institutions.

The project will also help develop appropriate land-use planning methods that will lead to the identification of projects to be implemented by NGOs or the private sector. Consultations will be held at the grass-roots level, with key government decision-makers. The aim will be to ensure that all land-use plans are relevant to the needs, resources and abilities of the farmers and other land users.

UNDP contribution: US$1,177,715. Government cost-sharing: US$1,177,715. Funds will be used for computer specialists and experts in land evaluation. An agricultural land-use planner and consultants will also be provided, along with study tours, computers and survey equipment. Executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. (BOT/91/001)

Cambodia—More than half of the primary roads in Cambodia require urgent repair. A significant number of the country's 4,100 bridges have been either damaged or destroyed. Route 5, essential to the repatriation of Thai-border camp refugees, is in particularly poor condition. Even the secondary roads leading to resettlement sites and food centres are impassable.

UNDP has designed an emergency road rehabilitation programme to repair Route 5 and secondary access roads, working with the provincial Public Works Department. Local labour will receive on-the-job training, and local materials will be used for construction.

A US$5 million pledge from the Government of Sweden will provide international and national personnel, equipment for road and bridge construction, trucks, spare parts and fuel. Executed by the Office of Project Services (OPS) and implemented by the UNTAC and the Public Works Department. (KAM/92/006)

Djibouti —The main objective of this project is to foster economic growth through the promotion of private sector development. UNDP will help the government establish a favourable administrative and regulatory environment conducive to business development. It will also help create a governmental office that can draft policies concerning the private sector. A data system on the private sector will be created to attract foreign investors to Djibouti.

UNDP contribution: US$500,289. Funds will provide a chief technical advisor, national consultants, and a consultant in programming. Experts in labour and tax laws, and experts in information systems will also be contracted. Executed by OPS and implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister. (DJI/92/501)

Liberia — UNDP will expand logistic support to war-torn Liberia to help the government in its national rehabilitation and reconstruction programme. UNDP will extend humanitarian assistance to target groups, mainly women and children who have been hardest hit by the country's civil conflicts. In addition, UNDP will help Liberia shift from free food distribution programmes towards long-term food production.

The expanded relief efforts will include the provision of drugs and medical services to displaced Liberians and returning refugees. The World Food Programme (WFP) will provide 3,000 tonnes of rice, which will be sold locally. The proceeds will be used to procure non-food relief commodities. UNDP will be contracting with local non-governmental organizations to handle the food distribution.

UNDP contribution: US$1,443,281. Funds will provide for a Project Manager, administrative staff, and subcontracts for NGOs for food distribution. Executed by OPS. (LIR/90/001)

Paraguay—The government is seeking to better manage the country's land use and conversion of forests into agricultural areas. In order to rationalize future land use, it will collect information on agriculture land, forest location, and help determine land use, ownership and value. The aim of this project is to consolidate, modernize and systematize the process of land ownership and titling.

An equitable fiscal policy will be devised, based on an updated assessment of land values. Studies will be conducted to outline policies for land use management, land titling, partition and transfer. Laws, procedures and technical outlines for water table exploitation will also be designed. The role of indigenous people in natural resource management will be analysed.

UNDP contribution: US$263,000. World Bank funding: US$5,000,000. Funds will provide international consultants and experts in aerophotometry analysis, census archives, law, land valuation and data base systems. National experts in census and data collection, photometry, cartography, and geodetic networks will also be provided. In addition, funds will cover training in information systems and computers. Government executed and implemented by National Cadastre Service. (PAR/91/019)

Peru—The Government has embarked on a process of stabilization and structural reform to redirect the country's development process. Its aim is to establish a more efficient, decentralized and participatory government.

UNDP sent a team of experts to Peru in 1991, under UNDP's Management Development Programme (MDP), to help the government formulate and initiate structural reforms and social development programmes. This project will carry out the recommendations made by the team.

The objectives are to reorganize the executive branch, and establish a system for recruiting and training high level government officials. Management models will be designed in six pilot municipalities. In addition, the government will receive support in preparing loan proposals related to public sector reform.

UNDP contribution: US$1,006,400. Funds will provide an international expert in administration, and national and international consultants in fields such as local government, administrative law, civil service and structural adjustment loans. Government executed and implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister. (PER/91/501)

Tanzania—The government has identified the rehabilitation and maintenance of roads as an urgent priority. UNDP will restore and maintain the condition of primary roads to ensure year-round transportation of agricultural goods. Thirty contractors will be trained in road engineering, construction technologies and maintenance techniques. Project support will also improve the capability of the National Construction Council and the Ministry of Works to manage contracts.

UNDP contribution: US$1,174,220. Funds will provide a chief technical adviser, a road engineer and an international consultant. They will also furnish a contract manager, a site training manager, a surveyor and a mechanic trainer. Fellowships, training and equipment will be supplied as well. Executed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and implemented by the National Construction Council. (URT/90/004)

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Turkey—Turkey is susceptible to serious landslides, flooding and other natural disasters. Its geographic location also makes it vulnerable to influxes of displaced persons.

Recognizing the need to strengthen its capacity for emergency management, the government requested UNDP's assistance in developing an emergency preparedness plan. A system will be designed to manage information, coordinate available resources and determine equipment to be procured.

UNDP contribution: US$133,000. Funds will provide disaster management consultants, study tours and equipment. Government executed and implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (TUR/92/015)

Uruguay—UNDP will assist in updating the Judicial System. The project will help reduce the administrative workload of the Supreme Court in order to give the ministers more time to devote to their judicial tasks. The Planning and Budget Office of the Judicial Power will be strengthened. A system of Judicial statistics will be developed. An information system will be introduced in the Judiciary, Tribunals, Supreme Court and Forensic Institute. Streamlined procedures for solving minor conflicts will be studied.

UNDP contribution: US$300,000. Government cost-sharing: US$550,000. USAID contribution: US$360,000. Funds will provide an international project manager and international consultants in tribunal and justice administration. National consultants for judicial statistics, public organization and administration will also be contracted. Government executed and implemented by the Supreme Court of Justice. (URU/92/017)

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